

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with J. Philip Polster on 05-17-2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

"And Device" had been deleted.

In the claims:

Claims 27, 29-32, 37, and 38 are canceled.

Claim 65, lines 1-2: "wherein the rod is pushed into the inlet at a controlled speed, the method" has been deleted.

Claim 65, lines 3-4: "rod, and a step of controlling the speed of feeding the rod in response to changed in the diameter of the" has been deleted.

Claim 68, line 8: "and" has been deleted.

Claim 68, lines 9-10: "--and a step of controlling the dimensions of the tube, said step of controlling the dimensions of the tube comprising controlling the rate at which the glass rod is pushed into the inlet by means of a feedback system,-- has been inserted after "...from the outlet," and before "wherein the inlet..."

Claim 70, line 11: "and" has been deleted.

Claim 70, line 12: --, and a step of controlling the dimensions of the tube, said step of controlling the dimensions of the tube comprising controlling the rate at which the glass rod is pushed into the inlet by means of a feedback system-- has been inserted after "...at a controlled speed" and before "."

Claim 73 is canceled.

Claim 74, line 1: "73" has been changed to --70--.

Claim 75, line 1: "73" had been changed to --70--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for allowance of the claims is the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest controlling the dimensions of a glass tube by utilizing a feedback system to control the rate at which a solid glass rod is pushed into a heating chamber comprising the claimed structure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erin Snelting whose telephone number is (571) 272-7169. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 1791

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on (571) 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason L Lazorcik/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

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